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THURSDAY
JANUARY 7, 1954

Snowing. No baths today. One takes three on successive days, abstains, then recommences. It is said that only one week does little good - twenty-one days, as is the case at all Continental cures, seems to be the magic number. Thus far the only effect on me is to have made me [redacted] nervous. but perhaps I should not blame that on the water for it might come from giving up cigarettes, the altitude, or imbibing unaccustomed quantities of the delicious Austrian coffee. At any rate, this is a tranquil and scenically heavenly locality. I have had only one telephone call and that yesterday from Dr. Vanotti, a famous Lauzanne stomach expert who is a friend of Nelson Slater. He is here attending a medical convention.

In a listless way I am studying a German grammar, as well as a phrase book, but my mind is too blunted to grasp and retain the language. I deplore my indifference to the attempts of the Fraulein, whom Mother engaged when we were children, to fix at least elementary German in my noddle.

A New York Herald arrived last night. I made the mistake of reading the annual review of the stock market, indicating gains and losses over a twelve-month period. Like Abou Ben Adam, Texas Pacific Land Trust, far my largest investment, led all the shares - but in the wrong direction - with a loss of fifty points, that is a one-third decline from its price on the year-end of 1952.

I brought along the painting kit which Phil Graham gave me and, having read his slap-dash instruction book "Get in There and Paint", am now deep in the horror of viewing what I can do with colours.

Read "The Hill of Devi" by E. M. Forster - letters and narrative describing his sojourns in the Indian State of Dewas Senior in 1912 and 1921. He is a fine writer but this work left me cold.

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Started tonight Mme. Saint-René Taillandier's Du Roi Soleil au Roi Voltaire. Lots about pompous Saint-Simon, especially his special mission to Spain.

Dr. Vanotti came to see us this afternoon. He is very agreeable. A hundred doctors, from England, France, Switzerland, Germany and Austria, have congregated here to discuss radio-active substances. Vanotti is a specialist in organic diseases. He thinks cancer is as frequent proportionately in Switzerland as in the United States and that perhaps its ravages are exaggerated in a sense because of the excellence of modern diagnostic methods and the tremendous increase in average life expectancy. He considers medical research in the United States preeminent and American doctors the most cooperative and generous of all.

E. and I went to see Salome, dubbed in German, with Rita Hayworth of the seductive figure in the key part. She is beautiful physically but a poor actress. The scenes were splendid, the story of course sloppily perverted, in the usual Hollywood way, from the vigor, cruelty and realism of the Bible tale.

It appears that Pella tendered the resignation of his cabinet a couple of days ago to the President of Italy. Perhaps he will be commissioned to form another government, but whether it is he or a replacement, the task will be difficult. As in France, the party basis for a stable government is unsatisfactory.

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